



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH STAUNER

CAMPUS
COVERAGE: **SEXUAL ASSAULT**



1 IN 4 WOMEN...
1 IN 20 MEN...
1 IN 3 LGBTQ STUDENTS...
WILL BE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED

Breaking my silence

A FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND ITS EFFECTS

BY KT MUELLER
Guest Columnist

I told my story as a joke the first time I said it out loud. I don't think I wanted to know just how disgusting it made me feel. Maybe I wanted one of my friends to react, to tell me it wasn't right before

I could admit it to myself. But I also know that part of me just wanted them to laugh and brush it under the rug with me, to let me continue believing it was no big deal because the alternative was far too painful. It took six months for me to even begin to admit to myself that anything

had been wrong. And when I finally did accept it the path toward healing became much more difficult. I didn't know where to start. Why did I feel the way I did? What exactly had happened to me? I remember finally making the choice to visit the Women's Resource

and Action Center and meet with a PAVSA advocate. I remember hiding in the bathroom beforehand for half an hour, crying. I was afraid I had "nothing to complain about." I thought rape was all strangers and knives and brute force. **see SILENCE, [A2](#)**

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Silence

from **A1**

I remember the moment when the PAV-SA advocate told me what I had experienced was “textbook rape.”

And I remember staring at the wall behind her not really feeling anything and unsure of how to react.

Everything I had known about rape up until that moment had come from skewed pop culture references, dark scenes in movies and uncomfortable jokes.

I grew up in a town where sex education consisted of the teachers telling the females in the class how men constantly wanted sex. And while they told us to not believe them when they said they “needed” it, they never bothered to tell the males in the class that it was not okay, under any circumstances, to pressure someone else into having sex with them.

No one ever covered the topic of “consent.” The word rape was never mentioned. And this is where the problem begins. How can we prevent it if we don’t even know what it is?

We live in a society of band-aid solutions. We would rather cover up the resulting “symptoms” than discover the root cause and take preventative measures. We would rather tell women to dress carefully, travel in groups and essentially “not get raped” than deal with the fact that by doing this we are perpetuating a cultural norm that tells men they do not have to take responsibility for their actions and tells women that they should expect to be harassed, assaulted and raped. And that when they are, they are to blame for it.

Even two and a half years after my abusive relationship I still find reasons to blame myself. Every time someone makes disparaging or derogatory comments about a woman’s outfit, every time I see an over-sexualized woman on an advertisement, every time someone turns rape into a joke, I find a reason to blame myself.

And I still find it difficult to speak out sometimes. Often when I do so I feel as though I’m suddenly wearing a big red sign and they must know what happened to me. As though the only people who can be disturbed by rape jokes are those who have experienced it. As though anyone else who finds them upsetting is “too sensitive.”

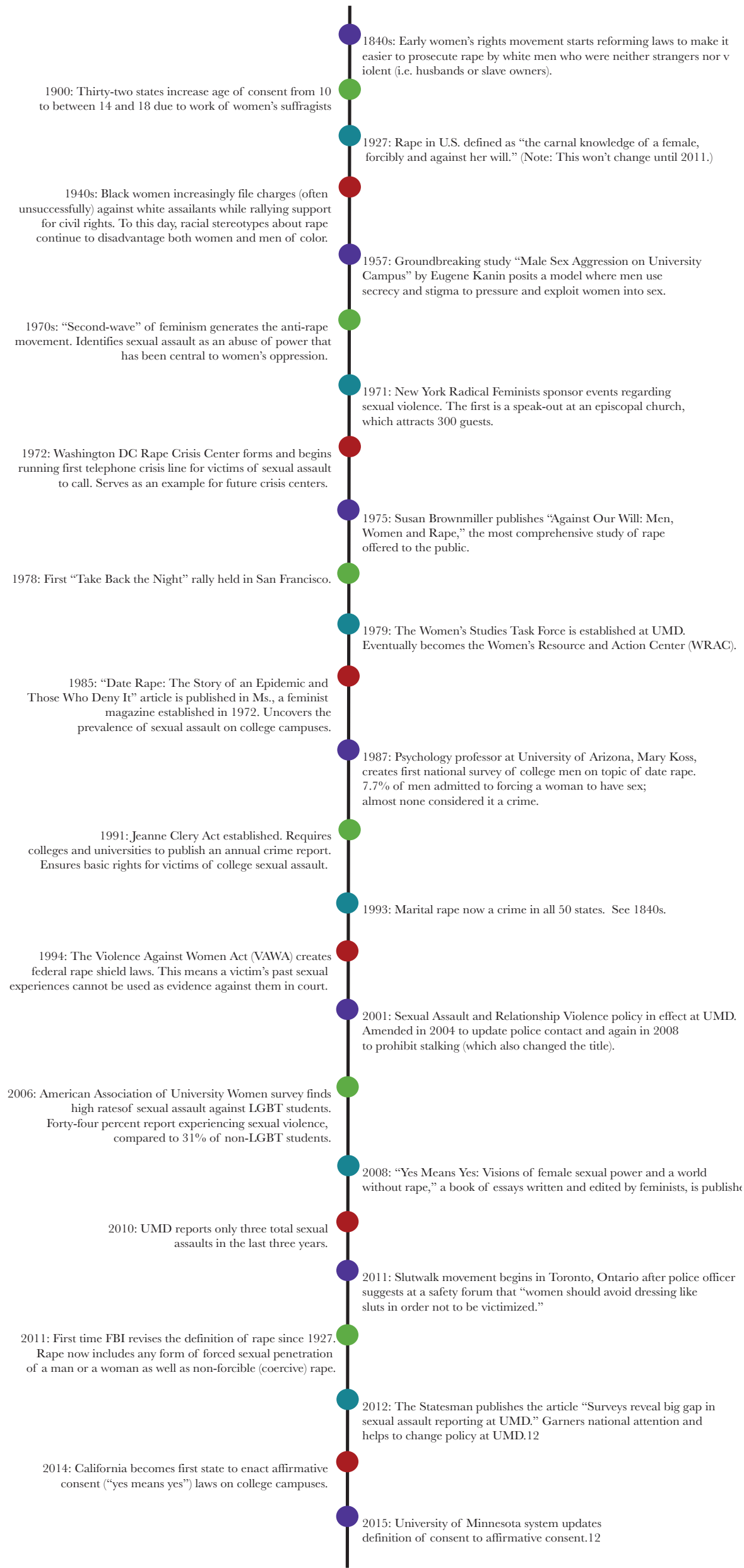
And it’s exhausting. It’s exhausting to wake up to another story of victim-blaming on the internet, to walk down another hallway or street and try to ignore catcalls and harassment and to look into the eyes of a friend and know what’s coming: another painful story to add to the thousands upon thousands that came before.

But there’s a movement growing out of this darkness. I see people sharing their stories every single day, brave men and women who know that the only way to prevent this from continuing is to talk about it. The only way to prevent this is to educate ourselves and speak out against the silence.

And I’ve finally decided to add my voice.

A (Very) Brief History of Rape on College Campuses

Why Feminism Matters



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Where We Stand: Racism and Rape by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence
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“A Brief History of the Anti-Rape Movement” by Polly Poskin, 2006
“Attitudes Towards Rape: Feminist and Social Psychological Perspectives” by Colleen A. Ward
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Via the position proposal for WRAC at UMD

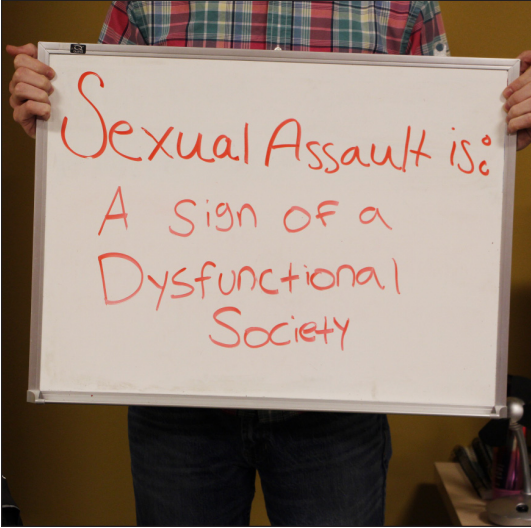
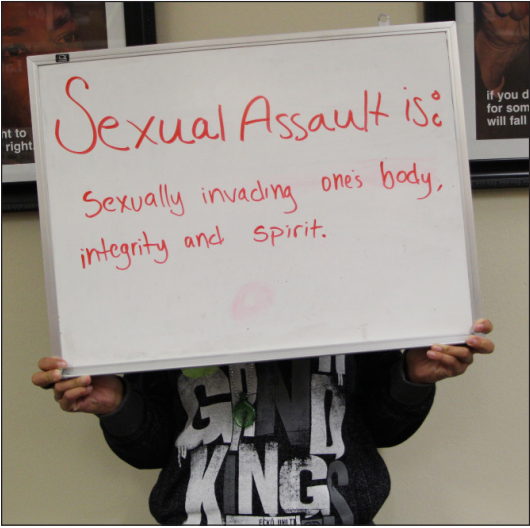
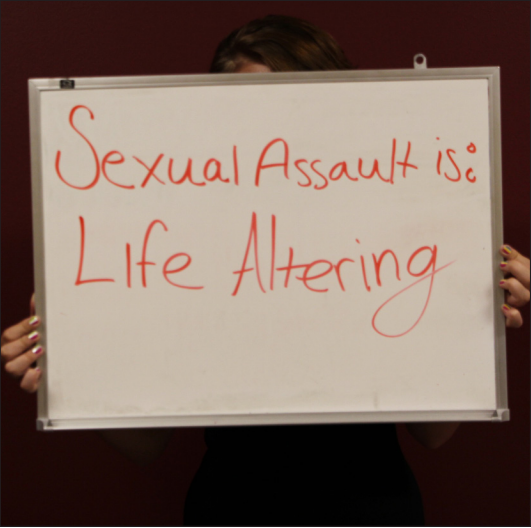
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SOURCES FROM FRONT PAGE

National Sexual Violence Resource Center and Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape 2012
Status of Women and Girls in Minnesota Research Overview. June 2014

WORD ON CAMPUS: STUDENTS SOUND OFF

ALL PHOTOS TAKEN BY HANNAH BROADBENT AND NICOLE BRODZIK



ISN'T IT IRONIC?

That time “A Guy Thing” got too real

BY APRILL EMIG
Managing Editor

Becoming a feminist is what made me realize I'd been sexually assaulted. Until then I had always blamed myself.

Feminism has long been about the personal being political; what we think is only a problem with ourselves is very often a sign of societal issues. Consciousness-raising groups in the 1970s brought women together who shared stories of abuse, poverty and assault. It was only then that they realized they weren't alone.

This is what feminism has done for me. It gave me a community when I needed it most.

MY STORY

I was 16 and I met him online through a friend. He seemed cool. He lived in Wales at the time but was from the town I currently lived in. We talked online a bit. He'd start video chatting me. He'd masturbate. I was uncomfortable but I was lonely. I thought playing along would get me the connection I desperately wanted.

He came back from Wales and invited me over. It was uneventful at first. He played World of Warcraft for over an hour while I sat at the dining table next to him, staring at the table. I complained of being hungry and he threw me a bag of cool ranch Doritos. Suddenly he was done and decided it was time for us to watch a movie downstairs.

I'll never forget the movie that was on: “A Guy Thing.” The irony of this situation could launch a thousand shitty poems. He kept trying to kiss me and all I remember is that his lips were dry as chalk. His sisters would roam in and out of the room while he groped me. I just wanted to watch the movie. I loved Julia Stiles. I'll never know what that movie was about.

An hour later we were in the laundry room. He demanded I give him a blow job. I said no. He told me I was his girlfriend and that's what I was supposed to do, that it was “my job.” I left and his mom gave me a ride home. It was a minivan and I remember thinking it was really nice.

When I got home he had the audacity to break up with me over instant messenger. We were never officially dating. I suppose that was our first and last date.

As I write this I feel afraid and

ashamed. This will be the first time my parents learn about what happened. They're reading my story the exact way you are. I went back to my mom's house and never said a word. Why would I? I was a slut. It was my

fault.

Writing this makes me realize that I still take some responsibility for what happened. Maybe if I hadn't gone there, maybe if I was stronger, maybe if ... I wish I could protect my par-

ents, my friends. I wish they didn't have to know.

Sometimes I wonder what the point is of telling my story. Maybe I want other people to feel comfortable enough to tell theirs, to end the stigma around a crime that's far too common. Maybe I suffer from the ubiquitous special snowflake syndrome that plagues my generation, thinking my story is somehow uniquely worthy of print. Maybe I have a martyr complex.

But when my mind spirals like this I think about what I would tell someone else in my situation.

I'd tell them not to be ashamed, that they did nothing wrong. No matter how they were dressed, how they acted, regardless of skin color, gender identity or sexuality. I'd tell them that the more people who come forward and share their stories the bigger the impact we can have. People won't be able to keep saying it's not a problem, that the stats are exaggerated.

FEMINISM MATTERS

I'm coming at this issue as a feminist but also as a journalist. Sexual assault on college campuses has been getting a lot of attention in the past couple years and few things get college administrators moving faster than bad press.

But the problem is that sexual assault has been an issue for much longer than it's been in the mainstream and it doesn't only happen in college. It's not new and it's not going to go away when the press stops paying attention.

This is a problem that will require radical societal transformation. It will require people to understand that sexual violence is about power, not desire. It will require people to care about more than just cisgendered white female victims (like me) and instead see that systems of oppression work to target minorities and keep them silent.

We need to speak up. But we need to do so remembering that we're standing on the shoulders of our activist foremothers who have fought against sexual oppression for centuries. We need to understand that while the attention is valuable, it's not the solution. We need to appreciate

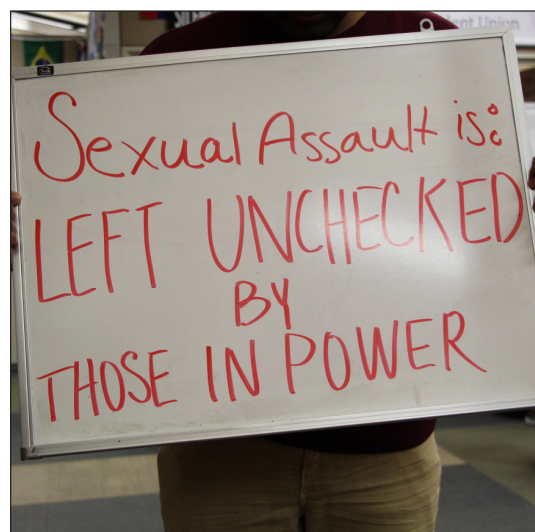
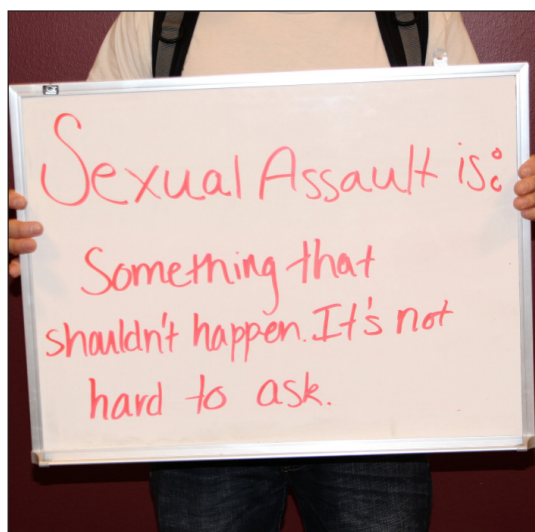
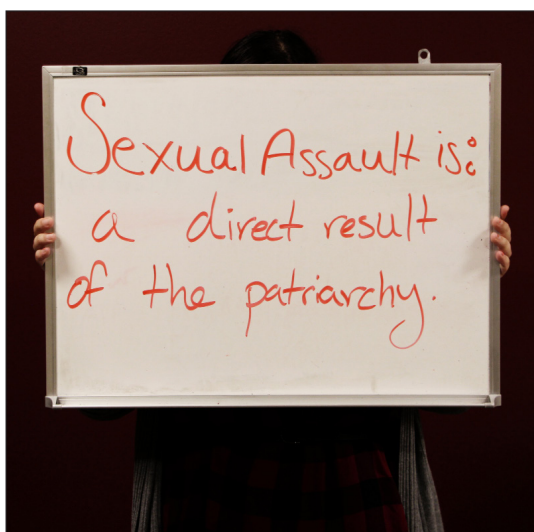
the feminists who worked endlessly to support victims even when it wasn't popular to do so.

We need to believe our own stories as much as we believe others'.



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WITH THEIR THOUGHTS ON SEXUAL ASSAULT



Got Your Back! UMD

Peer Health Educator, Meg Poettgen, walks us through the GYB!UMD program in her own words.

“Do something, change the situation.” is the GYB! motto.
“Because you don’t have to go out and be a hero, you just need to change the situation a little bit,” - Meg Poettgen.

5 Steps to Intervention

- Notice the event
“This is a conscious effort, you do have to be on the lookout”
- Interpret it as a problem
“Keep in mind ambiguity and conformity. This means that some situations can be ambiguous. It’s hard to decipher screaming between kids and danger. As for conformity, if no one is dancing you won’t either.”
- Assume personal responsibility
“You have to decided to do something.”
- Know how to help
“This is something that would take place beforehand, like being trained in first aid.”
- Step UP!
“Take Action”

S.E.E

Safe responding

Early intervention:

“Helping before the alcohol overdose, like making sure they’re drinking water all night too.”

Effective helping:

“So as not to make it worse....It’s knowing what you’re capable of, then asking for help.”

5 Intervention Styles

- Shark:** “Rushes into a situation.”
Fox: “A little quicker, but no so bull-headed.”
Turtle: “More for things like eating disorders, the approach situations very calmly and patient.”
Teddy Bear: “Calm and patient, team oriented, they really think before they do anything.”
Owl: “The owl is the overall style, they fit everything together.”

Strategies

- Direct:** Mobilize and engage others:
“This is directly putting yourself in the situation.”
- Indirect:**
“Ask for help from a qualified person....This would be like asking a bartender for help if you see something going on.”

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Resources for Victims

Program for Aid to Victims of Sexual Assault (PAVSA)

(218)726-1442
24-Hour Crisis Line:
1-800-286-4751

UMD Counseling Services

(218)726-7913
(218)726-8155

UMD Council of Religious Advisors

(218)726-8737

UMD Women’s Resource and Action Center (WRAC)

(218)726-6292

Safe Haven

(218)623-1000
24-Hour Crisis Line:
(218)726-6481

St. Luke’s Hospital

(218)249-5555

Essentia Health (St. Mary’s)

(218)786-4000

THAT GIRL: A story from the U of M

Because of our shared sexual assault policies, a Twin Cities student shares her story anonymously with the northern campus

If you are a female in college your chances of being sexually assaulted are one in five and it will most likely be committed by someone you already know. This is according to federal statistics from The Campus Sexual Assault Study.

Statistics like these were always something my mind would candidly dismiss. Not that I was being imperceptive or shallow. It simply just was not a concern for me.

What I am trying to get at is that I have lived a privileged life. I am your typical college girl who stays up until three in the morning either cramming for an exam or ordering pizza with my roommates. I am the girl you see in the hallways. I am the girl who is standing in line at the register. I am the girl you see when you look up from this story.

On Sept. 1, 2015, I stood outside of a popular bar downtown preparing for another night of strong drinks, loud music and unforgettable memories.

Unbeknownst to me, “unforgettable” that night was going to mean life changing.

I made plans to meet up with my friend. Let’s call her Maddie. She was with her boyfriend and his friend, we’ll call him Hunter, who I have met on a few occasions. Everyone was having fun until Maddie and her boyfriend decided to covertly leave.

At the time I didn’t mind. Hunter was a funny, easy-going guy. Someone I considered a friend.

When we got back to Maddie’s apartment, she and her boyfriend went

to sleep right away and I planned on doing the same. When I heard Hunter follow me into the bedroom I pretended to fall asleep but that was when the nightmare began.

It was not long before I started feeling concerned. “If he thinks I am sleeping, why is he touching me like that?”

As things escalated, I got more confused. “Oh my God,” I thought to myself, “how far is he going to take this?” And the more traumatic it became the more trapped I felt.

He didn’t listen when I muttered “no” and turned away. He didn’t notice when I put my arm across my face as tears drew from my eyes. It was not until he forced himself on top of me that the outcome of the situation dawned on me and I knew I had to get myself out.

I ran into the bathroom and began to panic. It was three in the morning. Who was going to answer my calls?

When I opened the bathroom door he was standing right in front of me. Frantically, I went back into the room, grabbed my purse and ran out of the apartment. Once I reached the bottom of the stairs footsteps began to follow. I slipped into the nearest door I could find and found myself locked into a closet-sized laundry room.

Reality struck when I finally got ahold of a familiar voice and it was not until I was left standing in the pouring rain, waiting to get picked up from the empty streets when I realized that this was not going to be the end of this

deplorable nightmare.

How did this happen to me? 7.3 billion people in this world and I have never felt so alone.

Coincidence or not the campus awareness posters I casually dismissed my whole life were pinned in every direction, catching my attention like bright LED lights. At that point I knew I had to report what had happened, not only for myself, but also for any possible victims in the future.

While the nurses and counselors helped ease my mind, the sexual assault case investigators brought back the pang of shame and loneliness. I was told that my case would never stand in front of a jury but the worst part about this was learning that cases like these are being piled on desks and simply dismissed.

How am I supposed to feel like I did the right thing when nothing will be done? What about all the campaigns advocating that no means no and that silence is never consent?

“It’s all bullshit,” an investigator said.

The university campaigns are leaving a false impression that may make students feel secure, but in legal terms these cases get far too convoluted under jurisdiction. Those who stay silent will never receive

justice, and sadly many who do speak up won’t either.

The reality of it is, no outcome will end the pain. There is merely no way to receive justice after being sexually assaulted.

In the end, the police, the hospital, even my friends and family did not matter. Once everyone stopped reaching out the misery from what had occurred that night still rendered.

Maybe one day I will meet a boy and not have to question if he is one of the good ones. Maybe one day I can hear the word “rape,” and resist the images of that night from inundating my mind. But maybe today is the day I can reach out and prevent these same thoughts from seizing your mind as well.

We do not need to acquire the strength and ability to surmount the suffering from incidents like these if we use it to prevent it from occurring in the first place.

Sexual assault campaigns are not there to reach out and console victims once the damage has been made. They are there to get across to guys like Hunter to inhibit any further damage. But we pay no mind to these campaigns because it is not something that should happen to you.

It wasn’t supposed to happen to me either.

“It wasn’t supposed to happen to me either.”

Professors play a part

As mandated reporters, professors struggle with ethical issues of assault

BY HANNAH BROADBENT
News Editor

Professors are mandated reporters. This means that if a student were to tell a professor that they were sexually assaulted, the professor would have to report it to a “reporting resource” on campus.

Professors are not mandated to do any training on sexual assault or reporting.

Beginning three years ago all incoming students started having to take an online course on sexual harassment and alcohol safety.

Students also have to attend a seminar during Welcome Week and continue to talk about it in freshman seminar classes.

Professors, on the other hand, have none of these things.

According to the Associate Vice Chancellor of Undergraduate Education, Gerald Pepper, professors are provided with several dozen workshop opportunities for things like writing, JAWS

support, new training and web design tutorials. Pepper does not recall there being a workshop on sexual assault yet this year.

If there was a workshop on sexual assault--and when there is a workshop on sexual assault--it would not be mandatory for any faculty member.

“Everyone gets the emails,” Spanish literature professor Maureen Tobin-Stanley said. “Though everyone gets 100 emails, so you have to choose... are you going to the bystander intervention talk today or are you going to work on something you have to publish or grade your 50 papers on your desk?”

Tobin-Stanley is on the Sexual Assault, Relationship Violence, and Stalking Task Force and started the Tobin Peace and Nonviolence Scholarship.

Tobin-Stanley said that in her classes the students discuss a lot of topics surrounding violence against women. There are very few novels that she teaches that

don’t have some sort of violence against women.

“So do we specifically talk about sexual assault in my Spanish literature class? We do not,” Tobin-Stanley said. “Do we talk about women’s issues and many other issues? Absolutely.”

At some point in her classes each semester she tells students that she is on the task force. She hopes that this will help students to feel safe.

Other professors around campus uphold student safety to a high degree as well. Instructor of finance Klaus Beckmann wants students to know that they will be heard.

Beckmann, who is originally from Germany, said sexual assault and violence awareness is a very prevalent topic here in the US compared to his home country.

“When I came to the U.S., I noticed it was a lot stronger and more discussed,” he said.

Tobin-Stanley agrees that sexual assault has been a more highly discussed issue in the past few years also.

“Individuals are much more aware of it. You can’t deny it’s an issue,” Tobin-Stanley said.

When a student tells a professor that they have been sexually assaulted, the professor is to provide the student with multiple confidential source options they could report to, like the Women’s Resource and Action Center (WRAC) or UMD Counseling Services.

Then, the professor is mandated to report it to the Office of Student Conduct or the Human Resources and Equal Opportunity Office. The professor only needs to report the assault to one of these two resources.

“If someone were to report to me, I would ask about the details and then talk to the head of the department,” said Beckmann. “I would take it very seriously.”

Information on the steps a professor should follow when helping a student to report, or when encouraging a student to do so themselves, is laid out in a three-page brochure

entitled: “Sexual Assault: Prevention, Awareness and Reporting.”

Tobin-Stanley has had students report to her in the past and she can tell the difference in a student afterwards. She said there is a drop in performance, demeanor and affect.

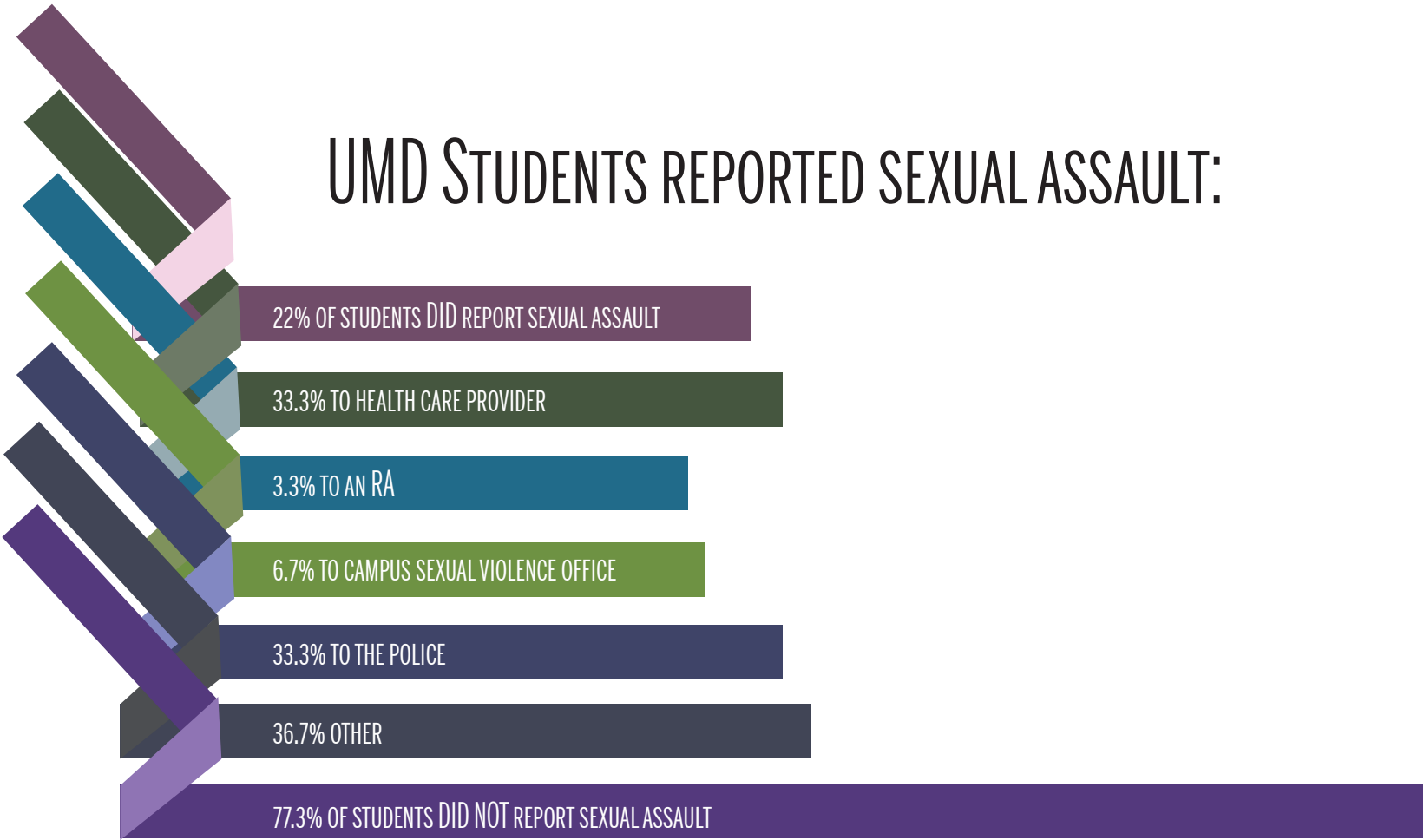
“It’s clear and marked,” Tobin-Stanley said.

She once had a student who was sexually assaulted. That student’s assailant was also enrolled in that particular course. The victim dropped out of her class, then dropped out of the university.

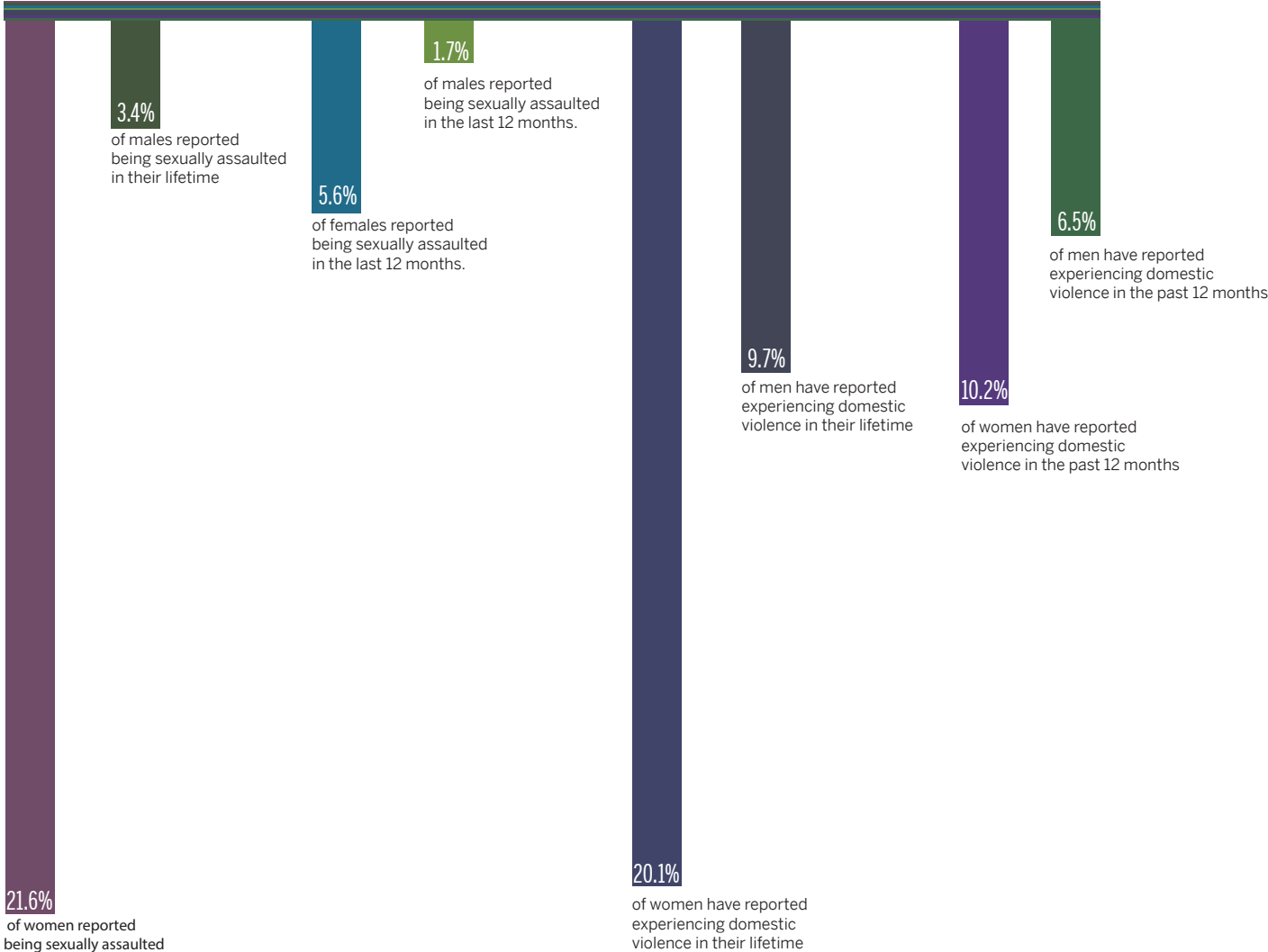
Tobin-Stanley believes in a victim-centered approach, in which the victim would get to choose if it is reported, not a professor or anyone else.

“That being said, in a perfect world everyone would say “Yes, I want to seek Counseling,” “Yes, I want to report it so it can be in the books and something can be done about it,” -- but not everyone is in the same place of healing.”

UMD STUDENTS REPORTED SEXUAL ASSAULT:



UMD STUDENTS:



Sexual Assault? Not in My Backyard

Results from a 2015 Inside Higher Ed survey of 647 college presidents.

Sexual assault is prevalent...

Source: Inside Higher Ed

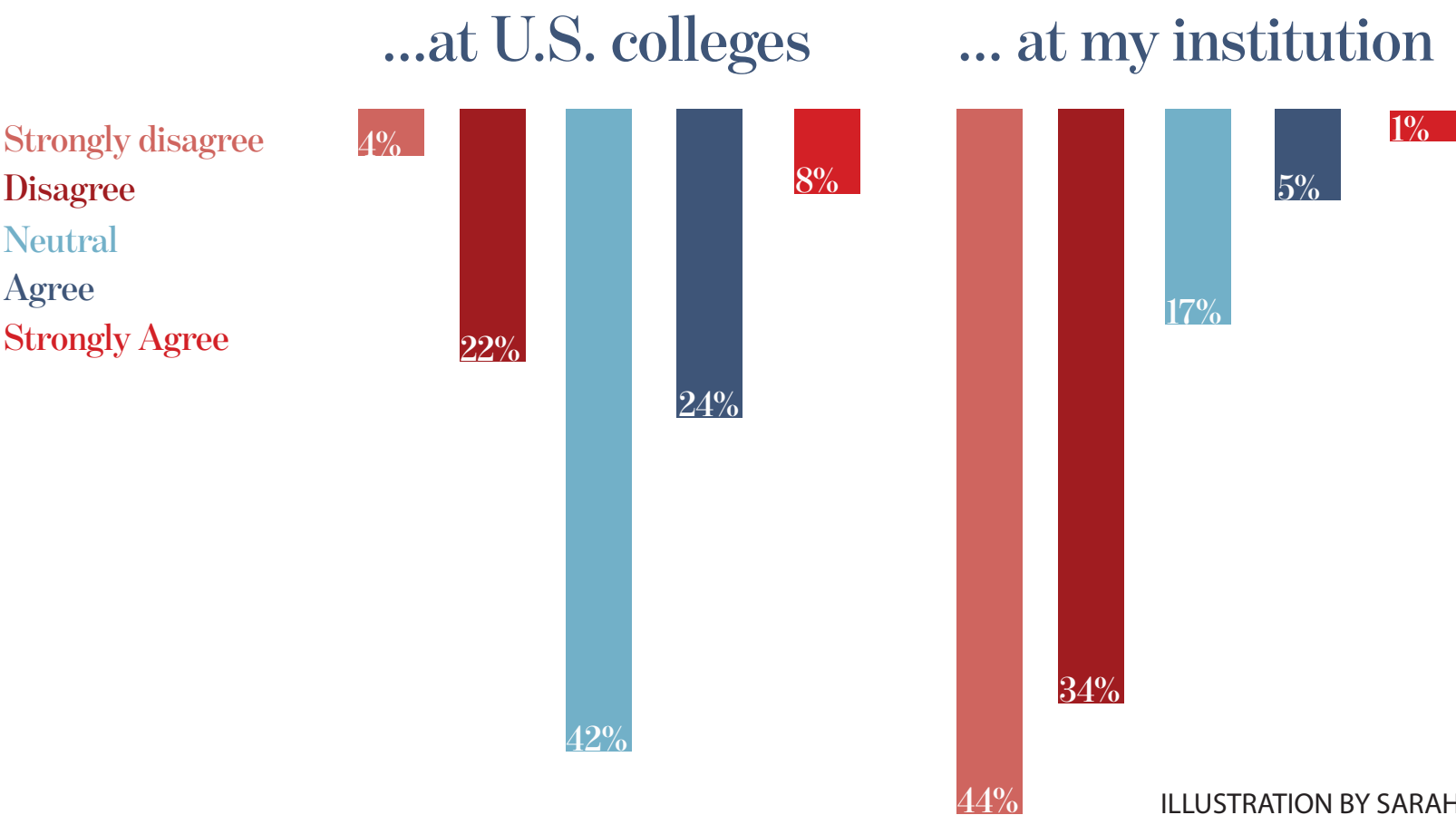


ILLUSTRATION BY SARAH STAUNER

Managing editor Aprill Emig sat down with the chancellor to get his response on the above study’s results and ask what he thinks his responsibility as chancellor is to address the issue of sexual assault on campus. Here’s what he had to say:

“I think that this response here which is the prevalent response is too low. With the national attention on sexual assault on college campuses I would have expected people to be in much more agreement about the prevalence of sexual assault. And it’s surprising but not surprising that so many say it’s a problem but not a problem at our own campus.

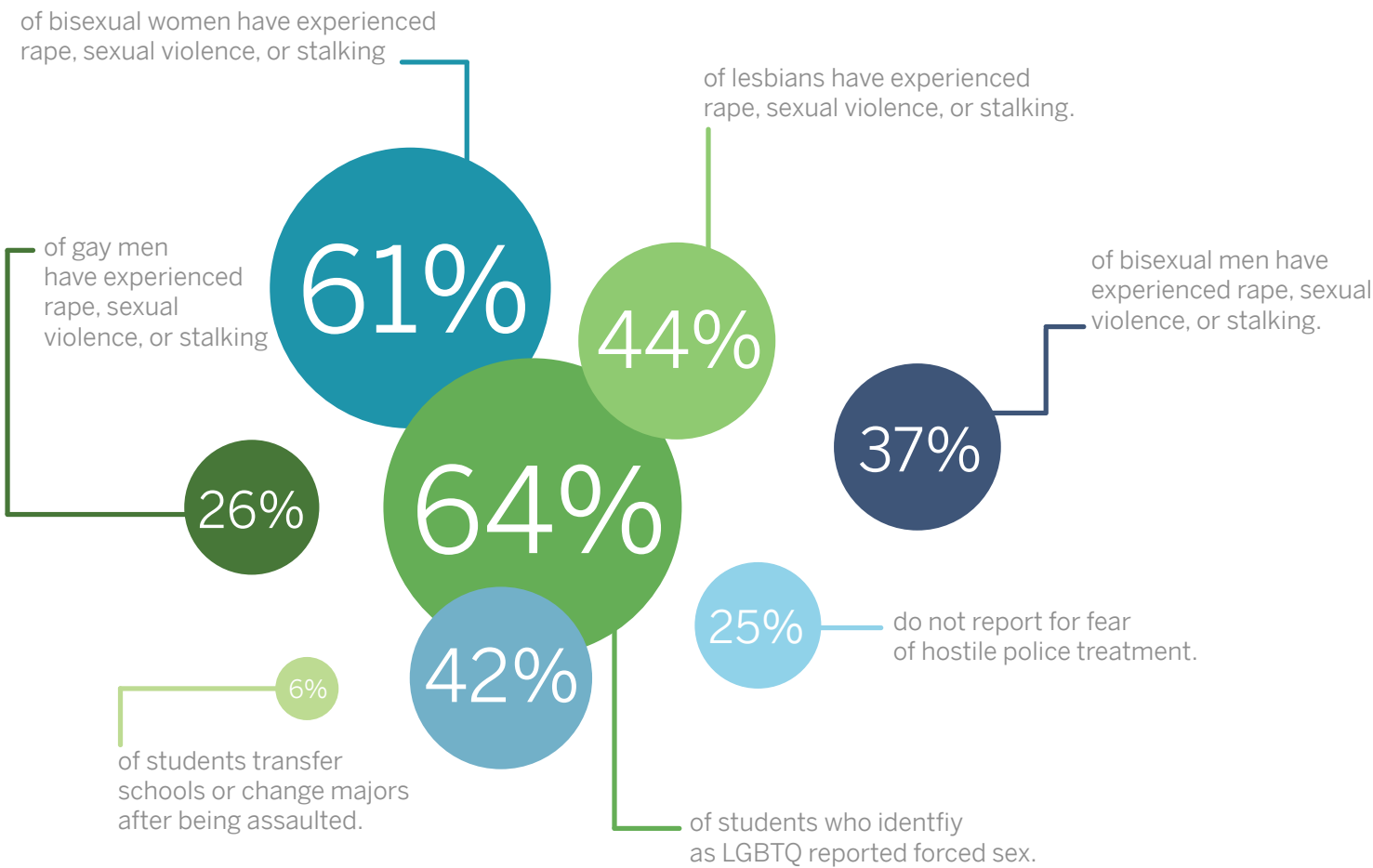
I think part of having a better campus climate is understanding where the problems are. I think if we don’t admit where problems are, we don’t accept the things that are going on and it makes it more difficult to address them.

It’s important to attack (the issue of sexual assault on campus) from many different angles: Helping to better educate people about alcohol use and abuse, helping to educate young women how to best protect themselves, helping to educate young men in more responsible behavior. I also think environment is a factor: is our campus safe in terms of lighting and those kinds of issues.

It’s also not accepting that ‘it just happens’ or that ‘it’s just part of college life.’ These beliefs are not acceptable, but unfortunately people still have a lot of the ideas that people are just here to party, and (sexual assault) is the result. But it shouldn’t.

”

Knowing the truth about LGBTQ sexual assault



Sources:
National Sexual Violence Resource Center and Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape 2012
National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force 2011.
CDC’s National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey 2010.

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